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(*b*) whether the Turaiyur Panchayat Board has offered to contribute rupees one lakh and twenty-five thousand towards the water-supply scheme; and

(*c*) whether the Government have taken any action in the matter and, if so, the results thereof?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The panchayat board is reported to be in a position to meet the cost of the water-supply scheme.

" (*c*) The matter is under consideration."

Report regarding seasonal conditions in Malabar.

* 7 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the latest report regarding drought conditions in Malabar was received by the Government;

(*b*) whether any and, if so, what remission of revenue has been granted so far and in which taluks; and

(*c*) whether scarcity or famine conditions prevail anywhere in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) The last report regarding seasonal conditions in Malabar is dated 10th January 1953.

" (*b*) No remission on a special scale has been granted so far in any part of the district but the Collector has reported that ordinary seasonal remissions will be granted in deserving individual cases.

" (*c*) The answer is in the negative."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether the Collector has reported that there is widespread drought in Malabar and that the second crop has failed? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No, Sir."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" From the question we find that the drought conditions have shifted from the Ceded Districts to Malabar. Is the Hon. Minister aware that in the course of shifting towards the South, the drought has affected Tamil Nad also? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not admit the first part of the question. No doubt, famine seems to have travelled from the Ceded Districts to the South."

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Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that there will be discrimination if the grant of remission on an individual basis is left to the discretion of officials? As the drought is more or less widespread, will the Government consider the desirability of granting remission on an all-Malabar basis? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" In Malabar, the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars have been instructed to carry on intensive *ajmaish* and recommend remission in deserving cases."

Sri K. M. SEETHI :—" May I know whether the Government have received representations from the public regarding the need for the grant of kist remission in view of the widespread drought in the district of Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir, Members of the Legislature now and then represent about the conditions in Malabar."

8-50 a.m. Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated just now that famine had travelled from the Ceded districts to the South. May we know up to what distance it has travelled towards South? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It has travelled as far as Tirunelveli district."

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that there was large-scale drought in Malabar, and 90 per cent of the second crop has failed, and when this was reported to the Tahsildars, they said that remission of land revenue could be granted only if there was 100 per cent failure of crops, will the Government consider the question of issuing an order to give remission of land revenue wherever there is large-scale drought and failure of crops? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is wrong to say that only in cases of 100 per cent failure of crops remission will be granted. Even for 25 per cent failure of crops, there will be proportionate remission."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in the crop reports of the Statistical Adviser to this Government, dated the 28th January 1953, it is stated, ' the crop is reported to be either withering or beginning to wither in most of the taluks in Malabar'. Having seen this, does the Hon. Minister still maintain that there is no drought in Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not say there is no drought there. There are patches of drought there as in other districts. The hon. Member will please wait for the intensive *ajmaish* and then he may make representations."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the open admission by the Hon. Minister himself that famine has been there in a number of areas, may I take it that the refusal of the Government

to declare any area in the State as a famine area is due to the fact that the Government do not want to take the responsibility which will fall upon them under the Famine Code if they declare any area as a famine area—particularly the complete remission of revenue and other things consequent upon the declaration of any area as famine area?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, if the Government did not want to take the responsibility, they would not have issued instructions to their officers to intensively *ajmaish* the areas affected and grant remission."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, it is one thing to issue instructions. But once an area has been declared a famine-affected area, automatically all land revenue collections have got to be stopped, and the Government are also forced to give work to all able-bodied people who offer themselves to work. Am I to take it that the Government do not want to take this responsibility, and that is why they refuse to declare any area as a famine area?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government are awaiting the report of the Revenue Officers there after their *ajmaish*."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, do the Government admit that famine in its travels has been roaming about wildly in certain parts of South Arcot district and, if so, will the Government order the postponement of kist collection there?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member can put a separate question. If, however, the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" The first part of my question may be answered, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is about the 'Report regarding seasonal conditions in Malabar'. The hon. Member's supplementary question does not arise out of this main question. If however the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I believe it has not been roaming about in the hon. Member's constituency." (Laughter.)

SRI N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, is it necessary that an area should be declared a famine area before the Government take relief measures? Do not the Government take relief measures even when an area is not declared a famine area?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is not at all necessary to declare any area a famine area in order to order relief measures."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Sir, is it not a fact that relief measures now afforded by the Government provide more relief than what is contemplated under the Famine Code?"